



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *State of Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

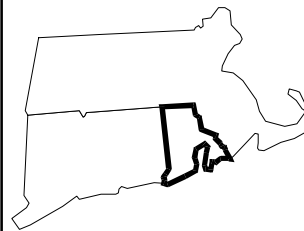
### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the State of Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation for a Brownfields Pilot. The Pilot is working through the Central Rhode Island Development Corporation (CRIDCO). The Central Rhode Island region (population 282,667) contains the cities of Coventry, Cranston, East Greenwich, Johnston, North Kingstown, Warwick, and West Warwick. The region was once the heart of flourishing textile and jewelry industries. The decline of these industries and defense industry cutbacks have left the region economically depressed. The region's unemployment rate has increased to almost 8%. High poverty rates qualify some neighborhoods for State-designated Enterprise Development Zones. The State has compiled a list of 122 known brownfields that blight the region and prevent redevelopment. Many of these sites have been abandoned by their owners.

### OBJECTIVES

CRIDCO is dedicated to helping the region rebuild the manufacturing base of its economy. CRIDCO plans to use the Pilot to help establish a process for leveraging private sector investment in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. In the long term, CRIDCO has four objectives for its brownfields

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*State of Rhode Island  
Economic Development  
Corporation*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will conduct environmental assessments at one or two sites in Central Rhode Island to be selected through a community participation process.

### Contacts:

Central Rhode Island  
Development Corporation  
(401) 732-7003

Regional Brownfields Team  
EPA - Region 1  
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflid>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

program: stopping the deterioration of brownfields before they become direct human health threats; demonstrating a successful methodology for cleaning up brownfields; restoring one or more community-targeted sites to environmentally sound conditions; and bringing the sites to economically productive status with environmentally sound businesses. To help achieve these objectives, the Pilot will play a role in CRIDCO's 10-step brownfields revitalization process that includes: prioritizing brownfields based on a community-driven process; conducting environmental site assessments; and developing cleanup and reuse plans.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Using a community-based process to identify and prioritize sites;
- Conducting Phase I and II assessments at one or two selected sites; and
- Developing cleanup plans, including estimating cleanup costs.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.